(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has recently ordered equipment for expansion of cellular network by 1.5 lakh lines in Chhattisgarh and the capacities are expected progressively from December, 2005 onwards.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) BSNL's cellular mobile connections are likely to be available on demand in Chhattisgarh by the end of current financial year.

Microwave repeater stations

1143. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has around 4000 microwave repeater stations all over the country, particularly in far-flung areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that these assets became unproductive due to obsolescence technology;

(c) if so, whether these assets can be reactivated for providing umbrella coverage of upto 50 kms. for microwave and 30 kms. for cellular; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken to reproductivise these assets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL
AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The analogue microwave equipments have reached the stage of obsolescence, but digital microwave equipments have not reached the stage of obsolescence. Further, other assets like building, tower, etc. are being utilised for other services as well as Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Cellular Mobile.

(c) and (d) Microwave equipments are used for point-to-point connectivity and where feasible such digital equipments are being utilized to meet the media requirement for cellular mobile connections/Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems.

Control of internet

1144. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: